

What is claimed is:

1. A die apparatus in a pressing machine in which an upper die set is securely loaded in an upper die holder fastened to a slide side for a pressing operation, characterized in that it comprises an arrangement whereby the upper die set is held in the upper die holder so that the upper die set can be extracted downwards from the upper die holder, wherein the upper die holder is provided with stopper means adapted to engage with the upper die set to hold the upper die set in place and adapted to disengage from the upper die set to allow the upper die set to disengage from the upper die holder.

2. A die apparatus in a pressing machine in which a lower die is securely loaded in a lower die fastened to a bolster side and an upper die set is securely held in an upper die holder fastened to a slide side for a pressing operation, characterized in that it comprises:

a first arrangement whereby the lower die is held in the lower die holder so that the lower die can be extracted upwards from the lower die wherein below the lower die there is provided a lower die lifting means for lifting up the lower die until it lies higher in position than an upper face of the lower die holder; and

a second arrangement whereby the upper die set is held in the upper die holder so that the upper die set can be extracted downwards from the upper die holder, wherein the upper die holder is provided with stopper means adapted to engage with the upper die set to hold the upper die set in place and adapted to disengage from the upper die set to allow the upper die set to disengage from the upper die holder.

3. A die exchanging method for a pressing machine, characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

raising a lower die lifting means to lift up a lower die in a lower die holder until it lies higher in position than an upper face of the lower die holder, thereby unloading the lower die from the

lower die holder;

then, placing an upper die mounting and demounting jig on the raised lower die lifting means so that the upper die mounting and demounting jig lies coaxially with the lower die lifting means;

moving down a slide having an upper die set fastened thereto via an upper die holder, followed by placing the upper die set on the upper die mounting and demounting jig so that the upper die set lies coaxially with the upper die mounting and demounting jig;

releasing holding of the upper die set by the upper die holder, followed by raising the slide to allow the upper die set to be extracted downwards and thereby unloaded from the upper die holder;

removing the upper die set from the upper die mounting and demounting jig;

mounting a new upper die set on the upper die mounting and demounting jig so that the new upper die set lies coaxially with the upper die mounting and demounting jig;

moving down the slide to allow the new upper die set to engage with the upper die holder, followed by fastening the new upper die set to the upper die holder;

moving up the slide having the new upper die set held by the upper die holder;

removing the upper die mounting and demounting jig from the raised lower die lifting means and mounting a new lower die on the latter; and

lowering the lower die lifting means having the new lower die mounted thereon until the latter is loaded in the lower die holder.